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12 March 1970

Memorandum for:

SUBJECT: COINS Log

A COINS meeting was held at NSA on Friday morning March 6th at 1000. I had no difficulty getting in despite our apprehensions about the closing of the CIA Liaison Office. Getting out was another matter. Most of the operating offices at NSA do not have the authority to issue property passes (I was told!), so I finally used the kind offices of the DIA Liaison Office for a pass to get my briefcase out. I don't know how legal that was, but it's either that or have George mail your notes and papers, which could be a lengthy process the way our mail is coming.

True. I am sure Rudy

When I arrived at the meeting George was handing out the two attachments (the Dir NSA letter to the DCI asking for an extension to COINS we've already seen, of course!). The draft of the work statement for the continuation of the Informatics contract is due in two weeks -- nothing else was said about it. George said he didn't want to go into any discussion about the Dir NSA letter at this time because it was still kicking around the various agencies for coordination.

George is going to go over the draft Semi-Annual Report with the various members individually within the next two weeks.

Then followed a status report by the subsystem managers. State and NPIC were not represented. [redacted] of NSA was pretty optimistic

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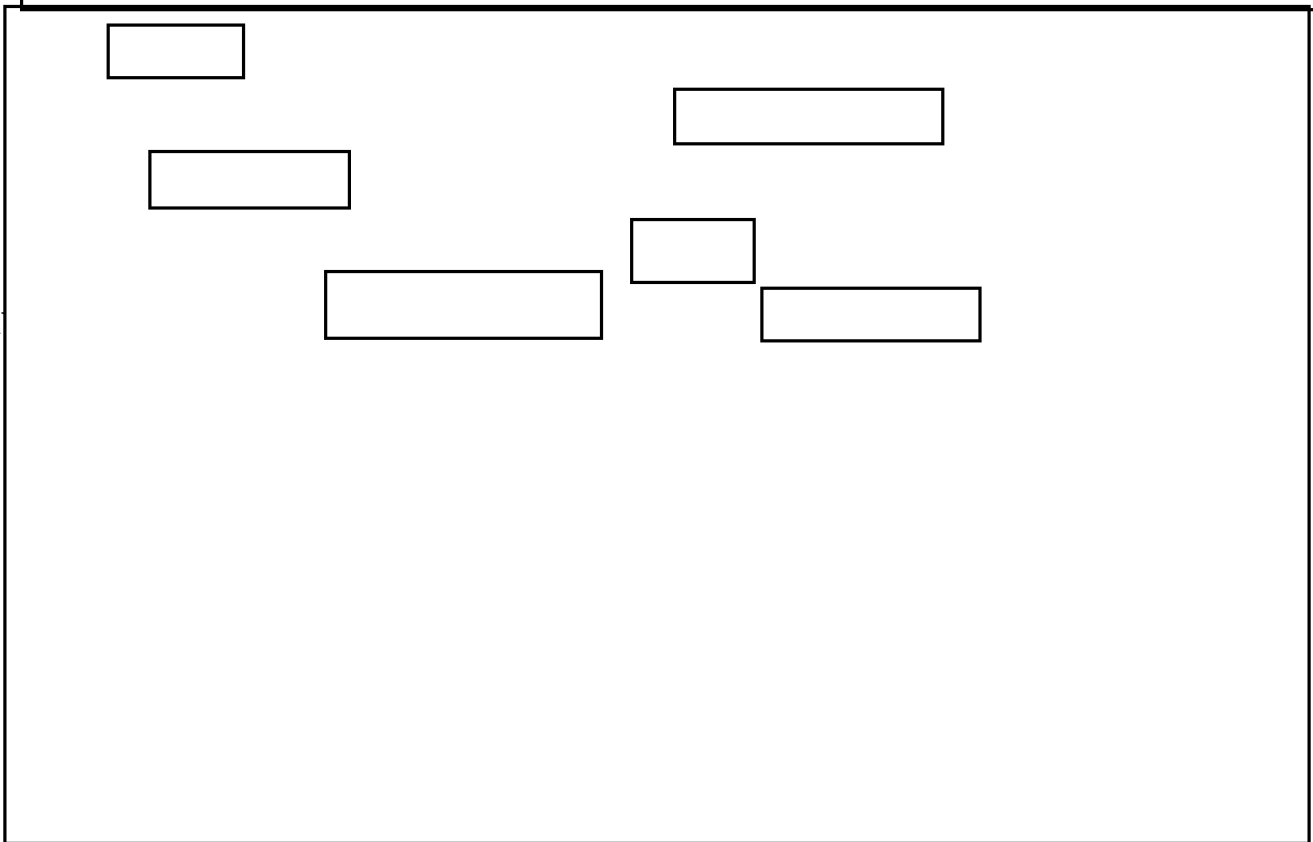
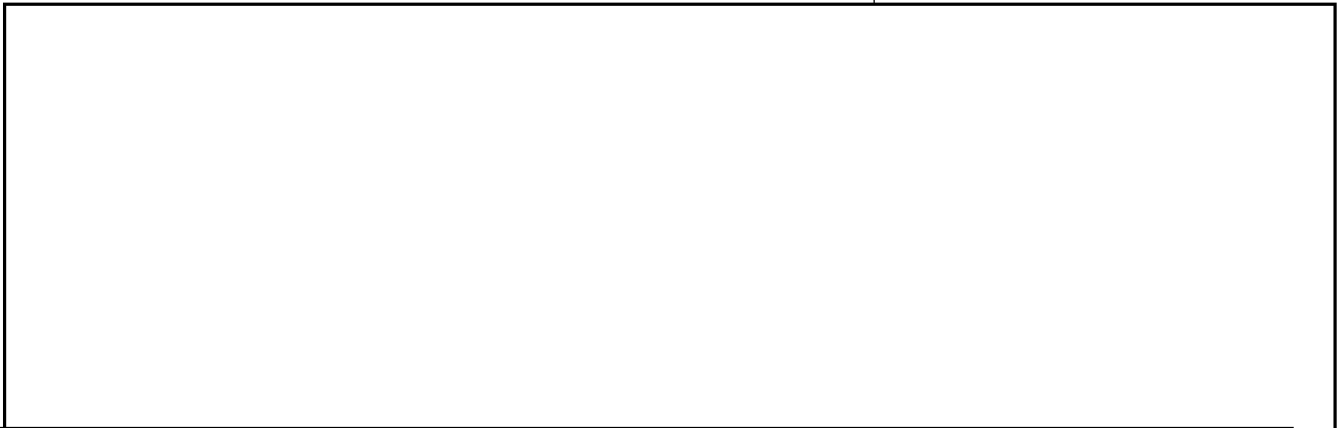
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[redacted] of NIC reported that they were going to try to get the money for the new MOD37 teletype from the Air Force.

Apparently all the terminals that feed on the DIA computer (including State) will have to drop their low-speed terminals and buy MOD 37's when DIA switches to ANSER for COINS -- about \$3800 each.

There followed an allusion to an IDA study and COINS and a White House source was asked if the files were current, up-to-date

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and responsive to the users -- an allusion clear only to George
[redacted] but the conversation quickly switched to the files
on COINS and it was not clarified. [redacted] has put on paper some
of the analysts' dissatisfaction with the present selection of
files on COINS, which he finds inadequate. He had some comments
on [redacted], and wondered if the World Wide [redacted] (which everyone takes
for granted will be on COINS eventually !!!) would solve his problem.
He has tried several times to get information on the commander of
[redacted] on COINS, with no success, and
cannot understand why information on such an important official
is not available. There followed some discussion on the World
[redacted] and the [redacted], would they be on COINS, what
was their maximum record length, would this be too long for the
GE 635 or a COINS query, who would input, what the data elements
were really going to be, etc. When we were finished the only thing
that was clear was that [redacted] and I -- who all heard
the same [redacted] briefing last Wednesday -- came up with
entirely different conclusions. Hopefully, the manual due out in
May will answer some of our questions.

[redacted] mentioned that [redacted] was
on the line at NSA and would be up to date on 1 April. He and
Brian stressed that it was quite different than [redacted] particularly
since [redacted] was a [redacted], while SMP will have every mention
of the man's name.

[redacted] came with Dan to mention the progress
in converting DIA OLS files from the 360 to the 635. A South East
Asia Log has been converted, loaded, and is maintained by DIAAP.

Most of INSTA (installations) will be converted by April. They are

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if they don't know the indexing system or the key words used by CRS Head-of-the-Line Indexers in salting this material away, they may have difficulty in finding what they want. Secondly, certain linkages used in the CRS system will be lost on ~~OCS~~^{TSAR} (OCS) and there might be some false drops similar to those found in using NSA's HARVEST.

Bob also mentioned that OCS was designing a data management system called TORQUE II, which when it's finished will be about the best there is. Right now it's available without any goodies, but when all the capabilities are added on, it can do almost anything -- that, however, is at least ^{to} 1 1/2 years away. In the meantime, CRS is going its own way and is more interested in []

[] from NASA. Bob added (since [] was also absent) that Security had ruled against COINS in the NPIC problem, so not much hope in the immediate future for them coming back into COINS. Bob did not add at the meeting that they weren't interested in staying in COINS merely as a user (a la State) but intimated as much later. [] apparently feels that there is not much in COINS for NPIC in its present state of development

[] next spoke on COINS Training and his CUS panel. He said he didn't feel that training was as ^{heavy} a problem as others did (it's usually considered 2nd only to files as COINS' main problem). Right now they're working on user's aids that allow users to train themselves. Their Workbook is now in Reproduction at NSA and is supposed to be run on the 13th. The Combined Retrieval Guide is now being typed. They've made the decision to go ahead with these guides without waiting for ANRS and FILE, and will have to be

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There followed a long discussion on why the forms were classified, and it distilled down to the question, "Is the fact that the Washington Area Intelligence Agencies have their computers in an experimental network classified?" [] thought yes.

George is still waiting for a CIA reply on the contingency agreement (on splitting the cost of the switch). [] said the ^{letter} DIRNSA little asking for a two year extension might change the answer he is now coordinating.

The computer clocks in the system are way out of synchronization -- the CCIP is discussing it.

George merely mentioned he had a four hour session with the BoB people -- but said nothing of results.

George said he wanted to talk to the various agencies "user families" again. The subsystem managers said there hadn't been enough change (improvement) since the last meeting to justify the effort. Still not many "real, live users". George also plans on seeing [] about bio files.

[] announced that the file from DIA [] an index to photography at the secret level, was being tested on-line this week; it is destined for COINS. [] questioned whether there was a requirement for such a file on-line.

Most analysts do not want to know just that a photo exists somewhere; they want the photo itself, and probably some interpretation of it. If it takes two or three days to get the photo after the index is accessed, there isn't much use for an instant index.

Dan also announced that FICPAC would be the first to join the

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This may not be true. In a somewhat similar situation on CIRCOB, the on-line index to documents is very useful. PES.

most analysts WANT Read the photo even if they can't see it. Betsy

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DRAFT

CONTRACTOR WORK STATEMENT

*for continuation Informatics
Contract*

1. The contractor will continue to conduct an independent, detailed review of the computer and communications interfaces of an existing experimental network of information retrieval computer systems. Specific attention will be given to the hardware, software and communications facilities involved in the interface. The study will not include any consideration or aspect of data base management systems or files. The review should result in specific recommendations for network improvement which could be reflected in the experimental network. Major changes in the current network configuration known to be taking place in the immediate future and which should be considered in the study are (a) the replacement of an IBM 360/50 computer subsystem with a GE 635 subsystem, and (b) replacement of a UNIVAC 490 subsystem with a UNIVAC 494 subsystem. The currently operating IBM 360/30 network switch will continue to be used. The study shall encompass the following areas:

a. Logic procedures, message types and formats, and operations of the network "store and forward" switch (ie.e., IBM 360/30) including switch software, queues and logs of network activity.

b. Hardware and software interface to the network switch at each of the four participating agencies having a computer system operating in the network, with specific attention being given to buffers and queues.

c. Quality and reliability of the network communications facilities.

d. Adequacy of the existing component system and network switch logs to provide both information required for system management and information to provide a continuing and meaningful evaluation of network operations and reliability.

2. Prepare a series of statistical studies on a specified six-week period of operations using data currently being collected. The results of these studies are to be used by the contractor to answer the following questions:

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Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

a. What is the average response time per inter-agency interrogation by system? Is there any relationship between the response time and the hour of the day?

b. What is the average response time per inter-agency interrogations by file? Is there any significant relationship between the response time and (1) how a file is structured or organized and (2) the size of a file?

c. What is the average length of answers to inter-agency interrogations (i.e., number of segments)? Is there any relationship between the file interrogated and the length of answers?

d. What is the average length of all other types of messages (i.e., other than answers)?

e. What are the average number of pad characters added to each type of message to meet the present fixed packet length (i.e., 156 characters)? What percentage of the total characters transmitted are pad characters? In what type of messages are pad characters most prevalent? Sampling would be sufficient.

f. What are the causes for interrogations not being answered during a given six week period? For the ten most frequent causes identified the contractor will:

(1) Indicate number of unanswered interrogations.

(2) Provide a recommendation on how to overcome the identified deficiency.

g. What are the rate of transmission errors for each of the data links in the network and does the error rate vary by hour? How could this error rate be reduced?

h. What is the mean-time-between-failure (MTBF) and the mean-time-between-repair (MTBR) for each data link and the computer system, including the switch in the network? For each of the six most frequent causes of failure the contractor will:

(1) Indicate the number of failures and average time file repair.

(2) Provide recommendations to eliminate or minimize such failures in the future.

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1. What is the present utilization of each data link per operating hour? (i.e., number of characters transmitted vs. maximum number of characters possible).

3. Prepare a study of various alternative communication configurations possible in the present COINS Experiment including the impact of interfacing COINS to the DIA/IDHS network. The government will provide cost figures wherever possible including all preliminary information which it has collected to date on some alternative configurations. Both NSA/T1 TETRAHEDRON and DOD/ARPA IMP's will be included as alternatives.

a. First, for each alternative configuration considered the contractor will provide:

(1) Communications net diagram identifying major components.

(2) Summary chart of advantages and disadvantages.

(3) Breakdown of the total dollar costs and man-months of effort required for each agency to implement.

(4) Possible conversion schedule and cost for each organization to convert from the present configurations to the proposed alternative. Conversion to any alternative configuration should cause as little degradation or interruption of the on-going network operation as possible.

(a) Dollar costs or savings for conversion (based on a projected five-year span).

(b) Man-months of effort required to convert.

(c) Milestone chart of major actions that would need to be undertaken by each organization

(d) Additional hardware and software required.

(5) The hardware and software interface requirements and specifications for each of the configurations considered.

b. Second, the contractor will prepare comparative analysis of all alternative configurations considered in 3a. above.

c. Third, the contractor will identify the alternative configuration which he recommends and he will set forth his reasons for the selection.

4, The government organizations indicated will provide the contractor with the necessary information to complete these studies.

a. Project Manager will provide information collected to date on the present configuration as well as some alternative configurations.

b. NSA/TI has agreed to provide a description of TETRAHEDRON and related cost figures including a Milestone chart of a possible implementation schedule.

c. DIA has agreed to provide the information required to determine the impact of IHDS on the switch.

d. All participants have agreed to provide the contractor with the necessary information to complete this study, for example:

- (1) Cost figures
- (2) Estimates of man-months of efforts required.
- (3) Identification of advantages and disadvantages for each alternative
- (4) Identification of hardware and software required.
- (5) Estimate on the volume of traffic to be handled.

e. All available statistics on the current operations including those collected and published by Informatics Inc. should be used in support of the study of alternative configurations.